

NEW JERSEY
STATE OF DISCIPLINE
FILED

JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the Board of Nursing

By: Steven Colby
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-2203

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

FILED

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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	Administrative Action
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROVISIONAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
VANESSA BEQUIS, RN	:	
License # 26NR14867900	:	<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	(Finalized by default
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	on <u>JANUARY 29, 2014</u>)

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Vanessa Bequis ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all relevant times. (Exhibit A).

2. The Board received information that Maxim Staffing Solutions, a staffing agency, terminated the Respondent after discovering she forged her time card for the week of December 16, 2013, while working at Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. According to the information, Respondent had her supervisor sign a timecard for the twenty-six (26) hours she actually worked, then used Wite-Out to alter the timecard to show sixty (60) hours of work. Respondent admitted to her employer that she forged the timecard, and was terminated effective December 30, 2013. (Exhibit A).

3. In a correspondence dated August 18, 2014, the Board sent Respondent a Demand for Written Statement Under Oath regarding her termination by Maxim Staffing Solutions. (Demand for Written Statement Under Oath, Exhibit B). In her response, dated August 30, 2014, Respondent admitted to forging the timecard. "I falsely stated that I had worked 60 hours when in fact I had only worked 26 hours. I exercised very poor judgment and I am sorry." (Statement Under Oath, Exhibit B).

4. The Board received information from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center ("Beth Israel"), in Newark, New Jersey, that on May 22, 2015, one oxycodone tablet was discovered missing from a medication dispensing machine. Respondent was the only employee

to access the machine during the four-hour period when the tablet went missing. At 7:00 p.m., a medication count revealed there were fourteen (14) tablets of oxycodone. At 11:00 p.m., there were eleven (11) tablets, when there should have been twelve (12). According to the administrator at Beth Israel, during the investigation, Respondent changed her story a number of times. Respondent's last story was that she rushed the scanning process and may have given patients three tablets. The investigation revealed Respondent only scanned one (1) oxycodone tablet, and charted that she gave patients two (2) tablets. Respondent subsequently resigned. (Exhibit C).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board finds Respondent engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, deception, or misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) by falsifying her timecard in December 2013.

The issue which gave rise to Respondent's resignation from Beth Israel in May 2015 involved controlled dangerous substances, which raises ample concern that Respondent may have diverted medication. Therefore, we believe testing, monitoring, evaluation, and treatment are warranted as a condition for continued or reinstated licensure in order to evaluate whether

Respondent's continued practice as a nurse may jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(e) and (f).

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 18th day of November, 2015

ORDERED that:

Upon the filing of a FINAL ORDER of Discipline in this matter:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing be and hereby is suspended for one year, six months of which is to be served as active suspension, and six months as a probationary period, for the falsification of her timecard.

2. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for the falsification of her timecard.

3. Respondent shall enroll in, participate in, and successfully complete a Board-approved ethics course within five months of the filing of this Final Order of Discipline.

Respondent shall obtain pre-approval from the Board prior to enrolling in the course.

4. The Board will not consider an application for reinstatement from Respondent unless and until she provides the Board with adequate proof of her successful completion of the ethics course.

5. In addition to the ethics course requirement, the

Board will not entertain an application for reinstatement from Respondent unless and until Respondent completes a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery And Monitoring Program of the Institute for Nursing ("RAMP"), demonstrates that she is fit and competent to practice nursing, that she is in full compliance with any agreement with RAMP, and that RAMP supports her return to practice.

6. By undergoing evaluation, Respondent expressly waives any claim of privilege or confidentiality that she may have concerning RAMP reports and disclosures to the Board, and use by the Board of that information in any proceedings.

7. All costs associated with the evaluation, monitoring, and/or treatment outlined above shall be the responsibility of, and paid directly by, Respondent.

8. A civil penalty in the total amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) is imposed upon Respondent for falsification of her timecard. Payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New

Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

9. Upon finalization of this Order, Respondent shall refrain from practicing nursing and shall not represent herself as a registered nurse until such time as her license is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

10. The within order shall be subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry hereof unless Respondent requests a modification or dismissal of the above stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by:

a) Submitting a written request for modification or dismissal to Leslie Burges, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

b) Setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed.

c) Submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor or offered in

mitigation of penalty.

11. Any submissions will be reviewed by the Board and the Board will thereafter determine whether further proceedings are necessary. If no material discrepancies are raised through a supplemental submission during the thirty-day period, or if the Board is not persuaded that the submitted materials merit further consideration, a Final Order of Discipline will be entered.

12. In the event that Respondent's submissions establish a need for further proceedings, including, but not limited to an evidentiary hearing, Respondent shall be notified with regard thereto. In the event that an evidentiary hearing is ordered, the preliminary findings of fact and conclusions of law contained herein may serve as notice of the factual and legal allegations in such proceeding. Further, in the event a hearing is held and upon review of the record, the Board shall not be limited to the findings, conclusions, and sanctions stated herein.

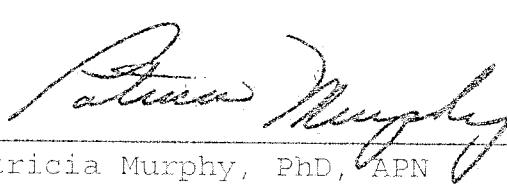
13. In the event that the Board receives no written request for modification or dismissal within 30 days following entry of this Provisional Order, without further Board review, all referenced preliminary Findings of Fact and Conclusions of

Law and all provisional sanctions or penalties imposed by this Order shall automatically become the Final Decision and Order of the Board. Thereafter, Respondent's failure to comply with any sanction or penalty imposed by this Order shall be considered a violation of a Board Order in contravention of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e) and (h) and N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and may subject Respondent to additional sanction and/or penalty.

14. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action based upon any information received in the future regarding the underlying conduct which led to Respondent's termination of contract, the results of the comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation, or upon any new information received.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:



Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President